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multiplied 349,621 by 5, the product 1,748,105. He divided 2,608,735 by 4; and answered immediately 652,183. Being given the sum of two numbers, 728, and the difference 16, he was required to find the numbers, and answered 372 and 356. Being asked what factors would produce 765,621, he answered 85,069 multiplied by nine. Being given 877 as one of the factors for the same number, he gave the other 873. These are but a few of many answers, but sufficient to ascertain his wonderful and unaccountable talent.

To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.

A LETTER TO A LADY ON THE SUBJECT OF HER SON LEARNING LATIN.

This is his season of life for learning languages, and those things which chiefly occupy the memory: this faculty is now in its full perfection with him, and should be fully employed; it is compared to an arch, which is strengthened by the weight laid upon it. In a few years the memory will rather decline, and the judgment ripens, when Arithmetic and mathematics will be in season. I know it is in fashion with many, who do not mean to send their sons to universities, to explode and decry Latin as an useless acquisition. It may perhaps be *unprofitable* in this sense, that it may bring them no money; the concerns of civil life may be transacted quite as well without it; the finest productions in that language are translated into the mother-tongue. French is more essential to accomplish the gentleman, to accommodate the traveller, and is the most universal vehicle of verbal communication. But Latin has been for ages past, and I believe will be for ages to come, (if the world stand) the ground-work of the literary part of liberal education; it is like the root

of all the most refined living languages, and when a foundation is laid in this, the rest are readily learned. In our own tongue, so many thousand words are adopted into our language, and become a part of it, and so many familiar Latin phrases and expressions are constantly used in word and writing, that an ignorance of Latin leaves one much in the dark as to understanding, and like bad spelling, betrays an original defect in one's tuition. An adept in Latin knows as it were by intuition, the powers and fitness of words derived from that fountain, and uses them accordingly. He has an opportunity of reading the finest historians, moralists, poets and orators, in a language to which no language does any thing like justice. Translations compared with such originals are like shadows compared with substance, and like unanimated compared with animated nature.

R. S.

To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.

GENTLEMEN,
YOUR Magazine for September last gives an account of an outrage committed by a young man of this county in the townland of Ballyeaston, 15 years ago, the truth of which I have no reason to doubt: yet I think the young man had no premeditated intention of injury in his mind; nor had he any interest in so doing, except to gratify a little idle folly in trying his horse. Had he met with men of so forgiving a disposition as your correspondent P. the matter would never have been spoken of. But your correspondent does not mention a single word of an under-landlord, not far distant from the same townland, who about two years ago made his tenants pay their rents in gold, which increased their rents every fourth penny; gold be-